

Remarks

Entry of this Amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested.

By the present Amendment, the continuation information required by 37 CFR §1.72 is provided.

This continuation application presents new claims 2-18 for examination. With regard to this, it is noted that claims 1-15 correspond to claims 31-37, 45-50 and 2 and 3 directed to the elected invention in the parent application. Applicants are in the process of preparing a Supplemental Response concerning these claims and the grounds of rejection set forth in the final rejection of February 11, 2003.

Accordingly, if this Supplemental Response has not been correlated with the file at the time the Examiner takes this case up for examination, it is requested that he contact the undersigned attorney to determine the status of this matter.

With regard to claims 16-18, these claims correspond to claims 14-16 of the parent application, directed to a non-elected invention in the parent case. With regard to this, although these claims were non-elected in the parent application, it is respectfully requested that they be considered in conjunction with claims 1-15 due to the close relationship between the subject matter of these claims and that of claims 1-15. In particular, like claims 1-15, claims 16-18 pertain to an arrangement of first and second inverters with relationship to N-type well region and first and second P-type well regions, including the formation of a diffusion layer in a particular manner. As such, it is respectfully submitted that many common issues will be raised, both with regard to the search and the examination if these claims are examined in conjunction with claims 1-15. Therefore, consideration of claims 16-18, as well as claims 1-15 is respectfully requested.


With regard to this matter, if it is determined by the Examiner not to examine claims 16-18 together with claims 1-15, it is respectfully requested that a new

election of species requirement be issued to give the applicants the opportunity to decide which group of claims they would prefer to pursue.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of, either by telephone discussion or by a personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Dep. Acct. No. 01-2135 (500.38532CX1), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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